

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to FIG. 2. This sheet replaces the original sheet including FIG. 2. In FIG. 2, previously omitted reference numerals 19 and 28 have been added.

REMARKS

Claims 22 through 41 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment cancels claims 31 and 35 without prejudice. Claim 42 has been added. Thus, claims 10 through 30, 32 through 34, and 36 through 42 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). The Office Action asserts that in FIG. 2, the "first inlet", the "pressure generating device", the "first blade", and a "channel incorporated in the first blade" must be shown. "First inlet" is labeled in FIG. 2 as reference numeral 2. The "pressure generating device" has been added and is labeled with reference numeral 28. The "first blade" has been added and is labeled with reference numeral 19. In the interest of expediting prosecution, claim 35 has been cancelled thereby negating the need to add the channel incorporated in the first blade. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings are respectfully requested.

As noted above, claims 31 and 35 have been cancelled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 31 and 35 are respectfully requested.

Claims 22 through 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 34, and 40 have been amended so as to overcome the rejections. Remaining claims 24 through 27, 32 through 34, 36 through 39 and 41 are dependent claims, and thus the rejections of these claims are also overcome. Reconsideration

and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 22 through 41 are respectfully requested.

Claims 22 through 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,357,229 ("Schust").

Independent claim 22 now recites "A hydrodynamic modular unit comprising: a primary impeller; a secondary impeller, said primary and secondary impellers forming at least one working chamber that can be filled with operating medium; a first inlet for allowing the operating medium into said working chamber; a first outlet for allowing the operating medium out of said working chamber, wherein said first inlet and said first outlet are coupled together via a circuit; a first device for connecting said first inlet to said first outlet and for providing that said **first outlet allows the operating medium** into said working chamber for simultaneously or with a pre-determined time delay in order to fill said working chamber simultaneously by said first inlet and said first outlet, wherein said first device comprises: a **first valve** arranged in connection between said first inlet and said first outlet, wherein said first valve has a first switching position for connecting said first outlet to said first inlet, and wherein said first valve has a second switching position for breaking the connection between said first outlet and said first inlet (emphasis added)".

Schust discloses a hydrodynamic clutch having at least two blade wheels, at least one supply line configured for carrying operating medium, a first device configured to influence an operating medium supply volume into the operating chamber, and a second device that is coupled with the first device and which is associated with the operating chamber. The second device includes

an accumulation chamber, a dynamic pressure generator, a sensor, and a blade wheel that is associated with the operating chamber.

However, it is clear that Schust fails to disclose or suggest a device that connects an inlet to an outlet to provide that the outlet allows operating medium into the working chamber. Moreover, there is no device that also allows for the simultaneous or pre-determined time delay filling of the working chamber simultaneously by the inlet and the outlet as now required by claim 22.

As noted above, the "first device" recited by claim 22 is not disclosed or suggest by Schust. Clearly, then, there cannot be the first valve of the first device that is recited taught by Schust.

As such, Schust fails to disclose or suggest independent claim 22. Claims 23 through 30, 32 through 34, and 36 through 39 depend from independent claim 22 and are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 22. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 22 through 30, 32 through 34, and 36 through 39 are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 40 recites "A method for accelerating the filling process of a hydrodynamic modular unit, comprising: receiving a signal and in response to said signal, coupling of the hydrodynamic modular unit to an operating-medium source after a standing still or in a drained state for filling of an inlet and an outlet simultaneously or in a time-delayed manner; filling of a working chamber with operating medium simultaneously through said

inlet and said outlet.... (emphasis added)".

As noted previously, Schust fails to disclose a mechanism in which there is a filling of a working chamber with operating medium through both an inlet and an outlet simultaneously. As such, Schust fails to teach claim 40.

Claim 40 is in condition for allowance. Claim 41 depends from independent claim 40 and is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons given above with regard to claim 40. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 40 and 41 are respectfully requested.

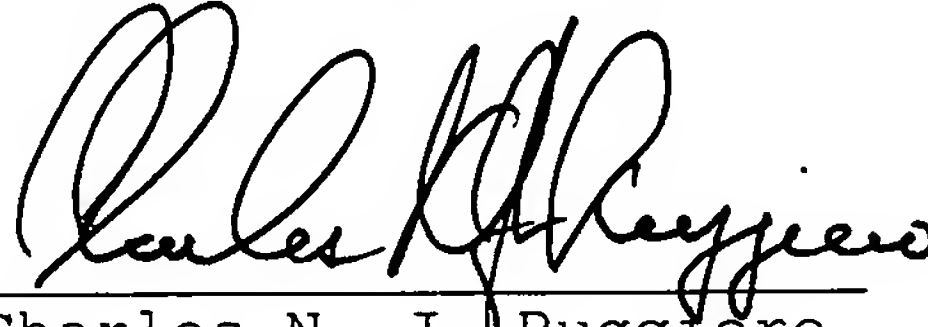
Claim 42 has been added to point out various aspects of the present application. It is believed that new claim 42 is in condition for allowance. For example, claim 42 depends from allowable claim 40.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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